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WALT DISNEY'S

DONALD DUCK AND FRIENDS

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It's interesting that this issue's "letters of comment" page focuses not on any of the Donald stories we've been running, but instead on Pat and Carol McGreal's and Cesar Ferioli's epic Mickey Mouse adventure in the mystical kingdom of Shambor. Is this an indication that Mickey — historically the less popular character of the two among comic book readers — is now giving Donald a run for his money in this new, up-to-date incarnation?

Mickey has always been a plucky and adventurous character, worthy of our admiration. And even though this *personna* was largely retained in the publishing world — from Floyd Gottfredson's early "Tom Sawyer as a mouse" vision of the character through the more recent "Mickey as a detective" stories — Mickey came to characterize "everyman" to the general public. A real "down-to-earth" kind of guy, as one letter-writer in this issue puts it.

While some enjoy and prefer this depiction of the Mouse, editorially we often heard from readers who were less than excited about Mickey's adventures because Mickey was perceived as too "goody-goody" or "boring." The challenge has always been to revitalize Mickey by presenting him in a more exciting manner. Gladstone Publishing tried in the 1980s to achieve this by dipping into Mickey's past and reprinting the Gottfredson newspaper strips, but these were perhaps too dated. In the '90s, an attempt was made to update Mickey by having him fight "super villains." Both approaches had limited success and, ultimately, sales of the Mickey titles waned.

But now it seems the swashbuckling-adventure-fantasy tack being taken by the McGreals, Byron Erickson, Don Markstein, and others, is succeeding, where other attempts have failed, in bringing Mickey once again to the forefront in the publishing realm. I hope so.

—John Clark

• IN THIS ISSUE •

Donald Duck **THE LOST SUBURB**
Story: Janet Gilbert
Art: Vicar
Color: Egmont & S. Daigle-Leach
Lettering: Jon Babcock

Mickey Mouse **SHOWDOWN IN SHAMBOR** *Part 1 of 2*
Story: Pat & Carol McGreal
Art: Ferioli
Color & Lettering: Scott Rockwell

Gyro Gearloose **ON VACATION**
Story: Dave Rawson
Art: Scalabroni
Color: Terry Letterman
Lettering: John Clark

Front cover art by Branca, color by Gary Leach

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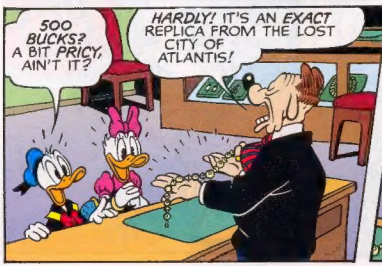
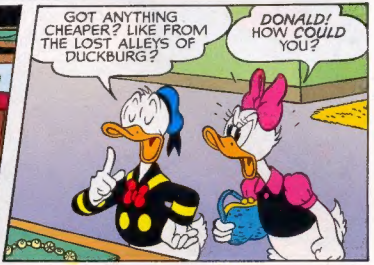
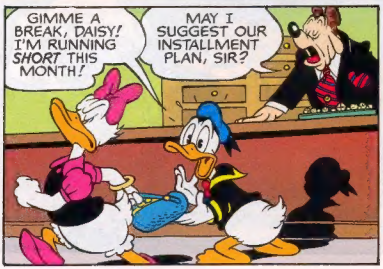
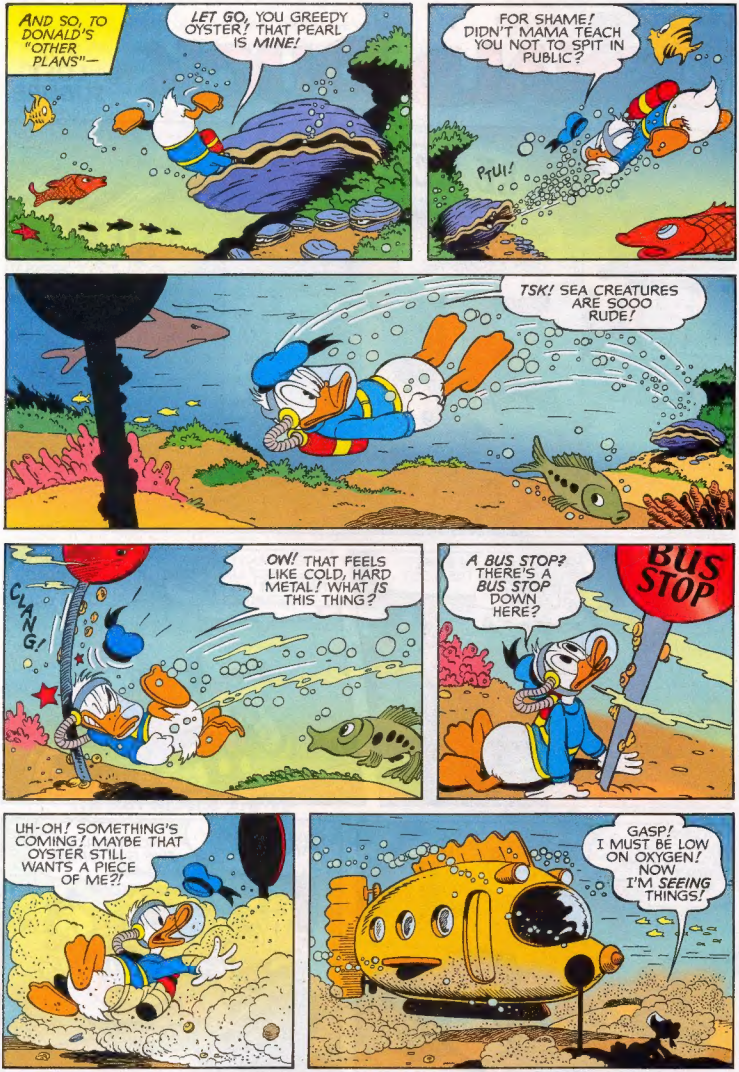
Walt Disney presents

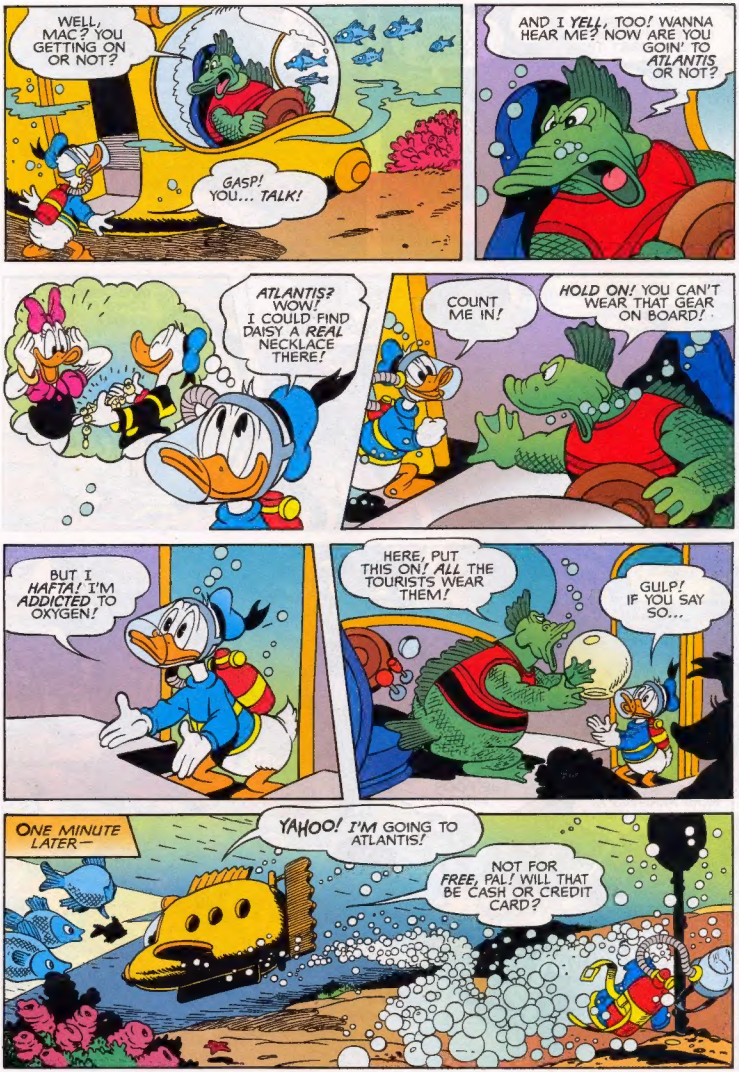
DONALD DUCK in THE LOST SUBURB



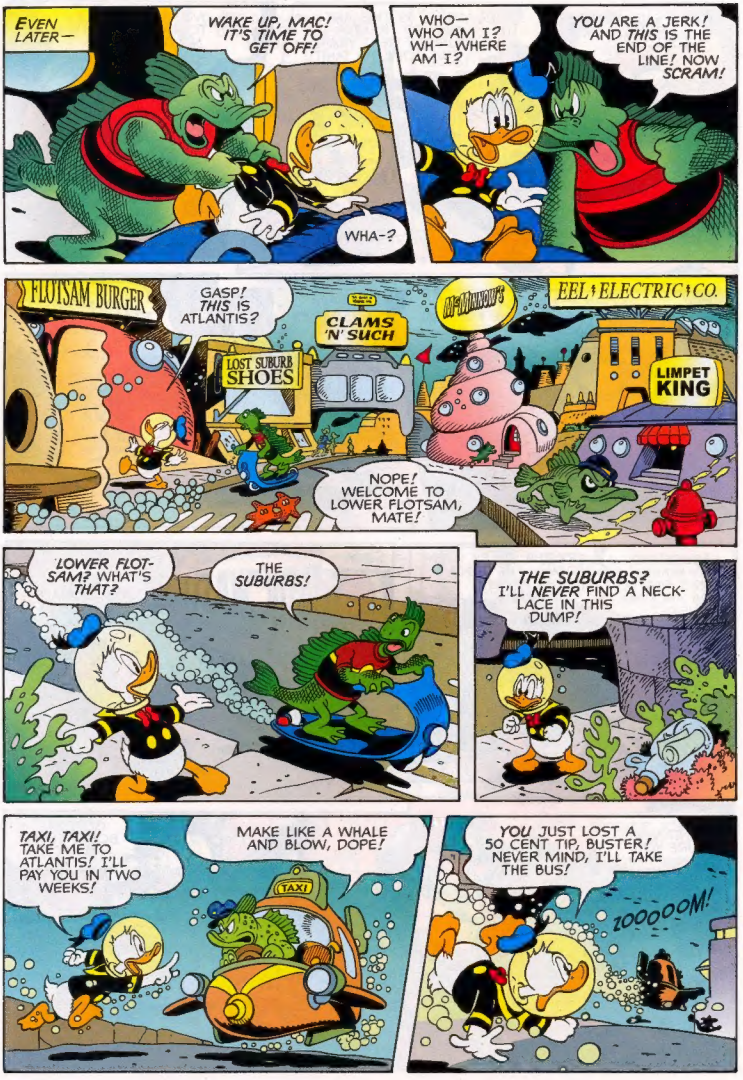


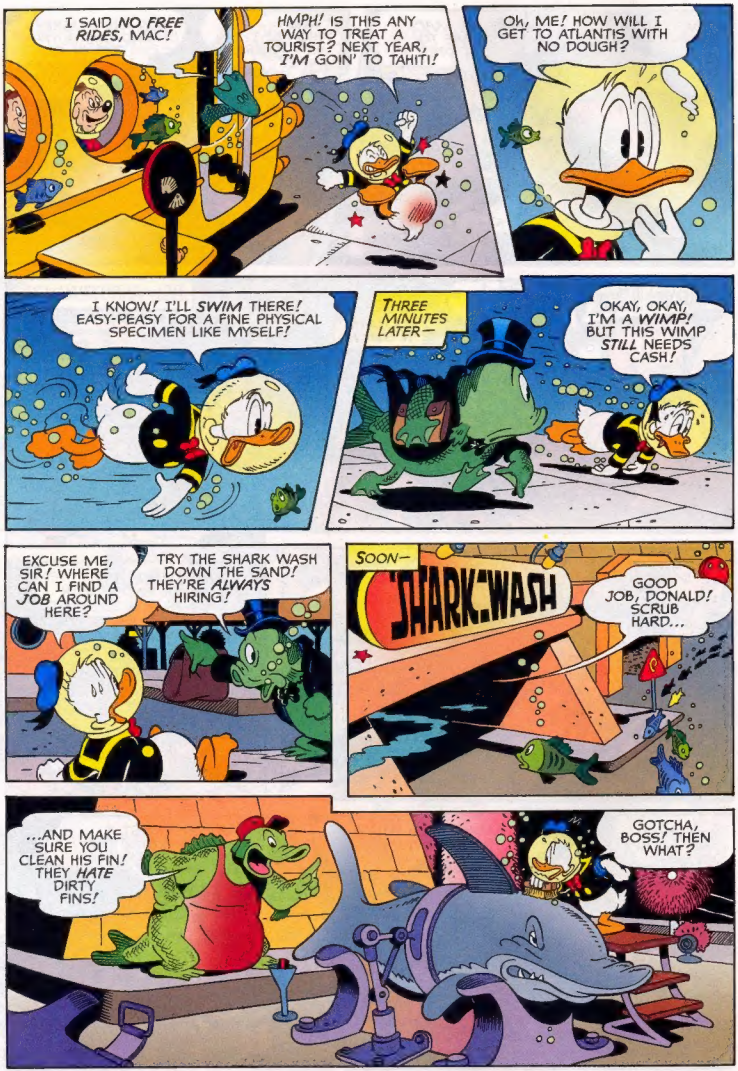


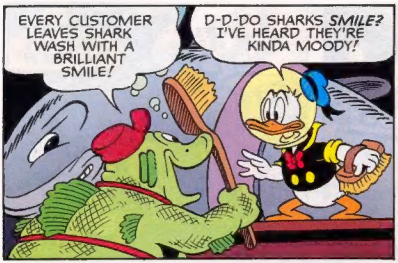

AND SO, TO DONALD'S "OTHER PLANS"—
LET GO, YOU GREEDY OYSTER! THAT PEARL IS MINE!
FOR SHAME! DIDN'T MAMA TEACH YOU NOT TO SPIT IN PUBLIC?
PTUI!
TSK! SEA CREATURES ARE SOOO RUDE!
CLANG!
OW! THAT FEELS LIKE COLD, HARD METAL! WHAT IS THIS THING?
A BUS STOP? THERE'S A BUS STOP DOWN HERE?
BUS STOP
UH-OH! SOMETHING'S COMING! MAYBE THAT OYSTER STILL WANTS A PIECE OF ME?!
GASP! I MUST BE LOW ON OXYGEN! NOW I'M SEEING THINGS!

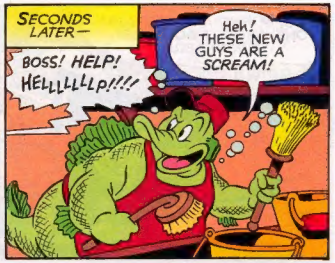

WELL, MAC? YOU GETTING ON OR NOT?
GASP! YOU... TALK!
AND I YELL, TOO! WANNA HEAR ME? NOW ARE YOU GOIN' TO ATLANTIS OR NOT?
ATLANTIS? WOW! I COULD FIND DAISY A REAL NECKLACE THERE!
COUNT ME IN!
HOLD ON! YOU CAN'T WEAR THAT GEAR ON BOARD!
BUT I HAFTA! I'M ADDICTED TO OXYGEN!
HERE, PUT THIS ON! ALL THE TOURISTS WEAR THEM!
GULP! IF YOU SAY SO...
ONE MINUTE LATER—
YAHOO! I'M GOING TO ATLANTIS!
NOT FOR FREE, PAL! WILL THAT BE CASH OR CREDIT CARD?

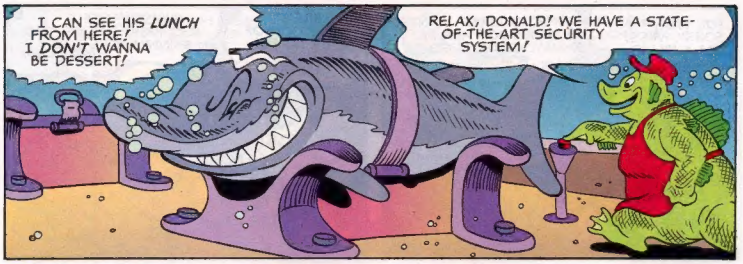
Uh, CAN I PAY YOU LATER? I'M RUNNING A BIT SHORT THIS—
DON'T WORRY, DRIVER...
...I SHALL PAY HIS FARE!
GEE, THANKS!
HOW FAR *IS* ATLANTIS?
A NICE LONG RIDE, DEARIE! SO SIT BACK AND HAVE A PROPER REST!
YAWN! GOOD IDEA! LONG BUS RIDES *ALWAYS* MAKE ME SLEEPY...
ONE HOUR LATER—
ATLANTIS STATION! NOW ARRIVING AT ATLANTIS STATION!
OH, DEAR! SHOULD I *WAKE* THE POOR LAMB?
BETTER NOT! LOOKS LIKE HE NEEDS THE SLEEP!


EVEN LATER—
WAKE UP, MAC! IT'S TIME TO GET OFF!
WHA-?
WHO— WHO AM I? WH— WHERE AM I?
YOU ARE A JERK! AND THIS IS THE END OF THE LINE! NOW SCRAM!
FLOTSAM BURGER
GASP! THIS IS ATLANTIS?
CLAMS 'N' SUCH
LOST SUBURB SHOES
McMUSCLE'S
EEL ELECTRIC CO.
LIMPET KING
NOPE! WELCOME TO LOWER FLOTSAM, MATE!
LOWER FLOTSAM? WHAT'S THAT?
THE SUBURBS!
THE SUBURBS? I'LL NEVER FIND A NECKLACE IN THIS DUMP!
TAXI, TAXI! TAKE ME TO ATLANTIS! I'LL PAY YOU IN TWO WEEKS!
MAKE LIKE A WHALE AND BLOW, DOPE!
TAXI
YOU JUST LOST A 50 CENT TIP, BUSTER! NEVER MIND, I'LL TAKE THE BUS!
OOOOOM!

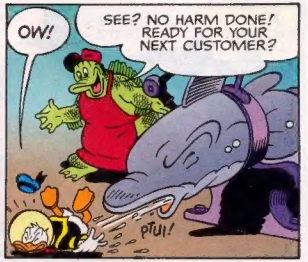

I SAID NO FREE RIDES, MAC!
HMPH! IS THIS ANY WAY TO TREAT A TOURIST? NEXT YEAR, I'M GOIN' TO TAHITI!
OH, ME! HOW WILL I GET TO ATLANTIS WITH NO DOUGH?
I KNOW! I'LL SWIM THERE! EASY-PEASY FOR A FINE PHYSICAL SPECIMEN LIKE MYSELF!
THREE MINUTES LATER—
OKAY, OKAY, I'M A WIMP! BUT THIS WIMP STILL NEEDS CASH!
EXCUSE ME, SIR! WHERE CAN I FIND A JOB AROUND HERE?
TRY THE SHARK WASH DOWN THE SAND! THEY'RE ALWAYS HIRING!
SOON—
SHARK WASH
GOOD JOB, DONALD! SCRUB HARD...
...AND MAKE SURE YOU CLEAN HIS FIN! THEY HATE DIRTY FINS!
GOTCHA, BOSS! THEN WHAT?

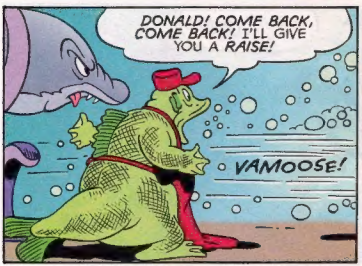

EVERY CUSTOMER LEAVES SHARK WASH WITH A BRILLIANT SMILE!
D-D-DO SHARKS *SMILE*? I'VE HEARD THEY'RE KINDA MOODY!

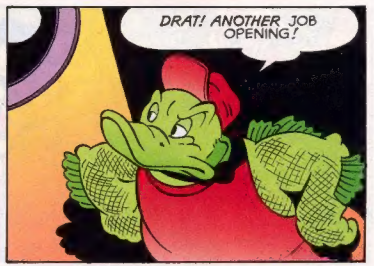

SECONDS LATER—
BOSS! HELP! HELLLLLLp!!!!
Heh! THESE NEW GUYS ARE A *SCREAM!*

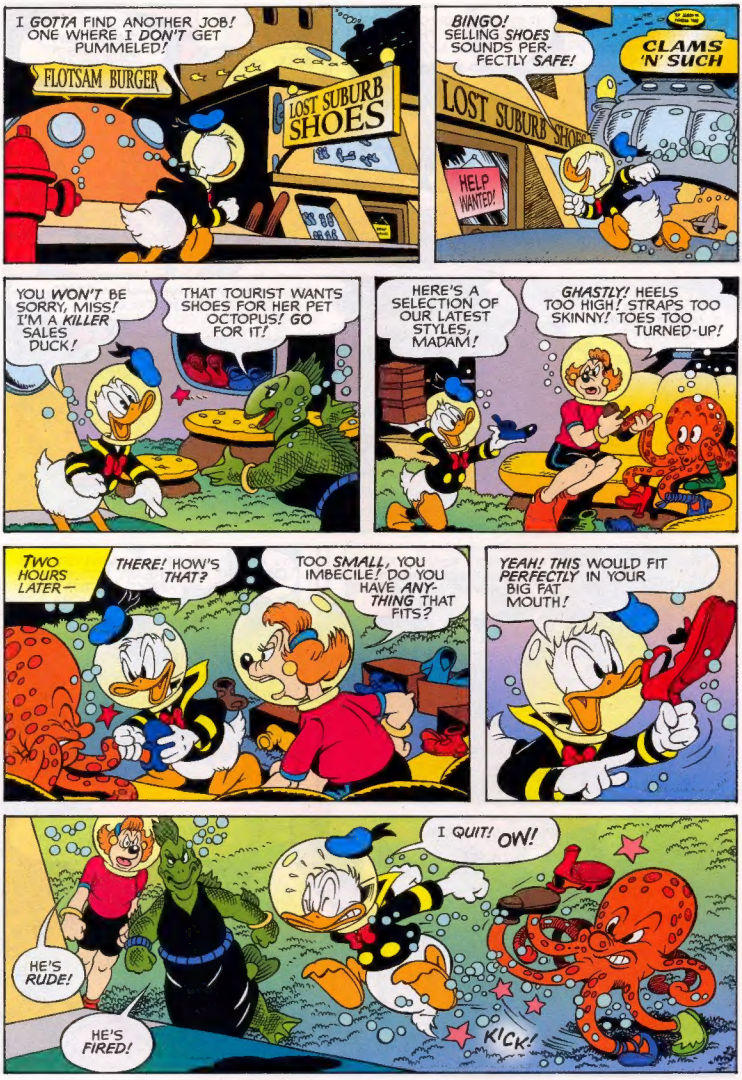

I CAN SEE HIS *LUNCH* FROM HERE! I *DON'T* WANNA BE DESSERT!
RELAX, DONALD! WE HAVE A STATE-OF-THE-ART SECURITY SYSTEM!

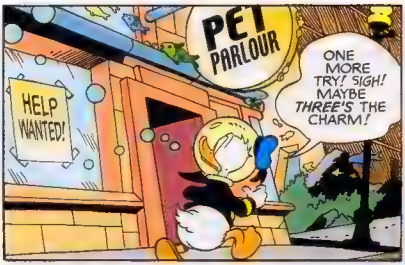
SHAKE-SHAKE-SHAKE!
BLEH! GOT SOME STATE-OF-THE-ART TUMMY MEDICINE? I'M FEELING KINDA QUEASY!

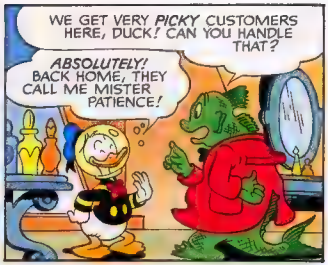

OW!
SEE? NO HARM DONE! READY FOR YOUR NEXT CUSTOMER?
PTUI!

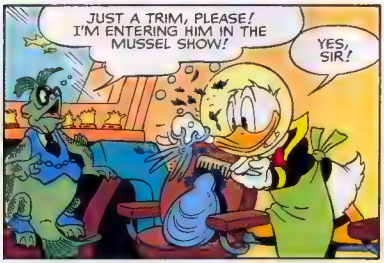

DONALD! COME BACK, COME BACK! I'LL GIVE YOU A *RAISE!*
VAMOOSE!


DRAT! ANOTHER JOB OPENING!


I GOTTA FIND ANOTHER JOB! ONE WHERE I DON'T GET PUMMELED!
FLOTSAM BURGER
LOST SUBURB SHOES
BINGO! SELLING SHOES SOUNDS PERFECTLY SAFE!
CLAMS 'N' SUCH
LOST SUBURB SHOES
HELP WANTED!
YOU WON'T BE SORRY, MISS! I'M A KILLER SALES DUCK!
THAT TOURIST WANTS SHOES FOR HER PET OCTOPUS! GO FOR IT!
HERE'S A SELECTION OF OUR LATEST STYLES, MADAM!
GHASTLY! HEELS TOO HIGH! STRAPS TOO SKINNY! TOES TOO TURNED-UP!
TWO HOURS LATER—
THERE! HOW'S THAT?
TOO SMALL, YOU IMBECILE! DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING THAT FITS?
YEAH! THIS WOULD FIT PERFECTLY IN YOUR BIG FAT MOUTH!
I QUIT!
OW!
HE'S RUDE!
HE'S FIRED!
KICK!

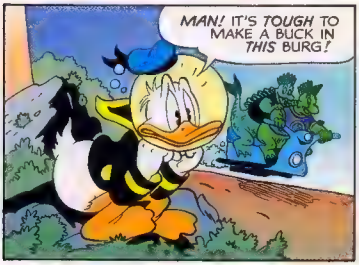

PET PARLOUR
HELP WANTED!
ONE MORE TRY! SIGH! MAYBE THREE'S THE CHARM!

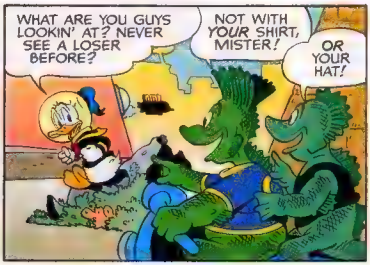

WE GET VERY PICKY CUSTOMERS HERE, DUCK! CAN YOU HANDLE THAT?
ABSOLUTELY! BACK HOME, THEY CALL ME MISTER PATIENCE!


JUST A TRIM, PLEASE! I'M ENTERING HIM IN THE MUSSEL SHOW!
YES, SIR!

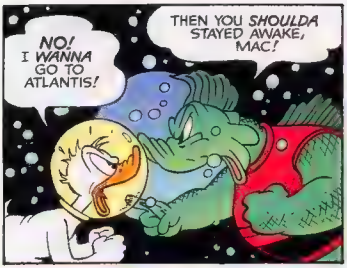
YOU... BUTCHER! YOU SHAVED HIM BALD! HE LOOKS LIKE A FREAK!
Uh, MAYBE I CAN GLUE IT BACK?

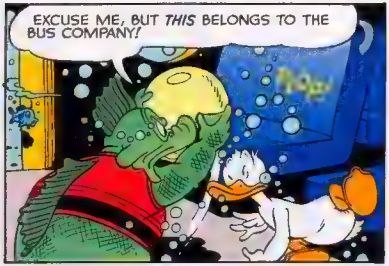
HE'S INCOMPETENT!
HE'S FIRED!
I QUIT!
OW!
THUNK!

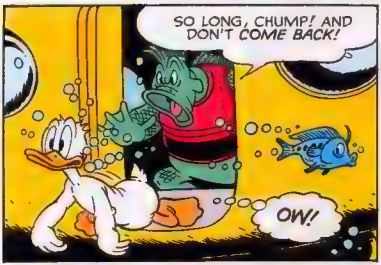

MAN! IT'S TOUGH TO MAKE A BUCK IN THIS BURG!

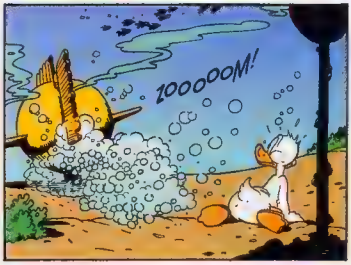

WHAT ARE YOU GUYS LOOKIN' AT? NEVER SEE A LOSER BEFORE?
NOT WITH YOUR SHIRT, MISTER!
OR YOUR HAT!

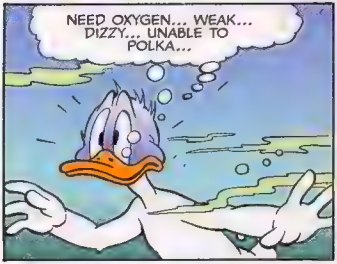
THEY ARE LIKE, TOTALLY SEA-WORTHY!
THEY ARE?
THEY ARE! DID I MENTION THEY'RE ALSO FOR SALE?
$ $
MINUTES LATER—
HEY! LET'S GO TO McMINNOW'S AND SHOW OFF! THANKS, MISTER!
WEAR 'EM IN GOOD HEALTH, BOYS! I'VE GOT A BUS TO CATCH!
YOU AGAIN? GOT MOOLA THIS TIME, MAC?
PLENTY!
YIPPEE! I'M FINALLY GOING TO ATLANTIS!
THINK I'LL JUST REST MY EYES 'TIL WE GET THERE!
BUT LATER—
ATLANTIS STATION! NOW ARRIVING AT ATLANTIS STATION!
ZZZZZZZZZ...
AND EVEN LATER—
WHA—? ARE WE IN ATLANTIS YET?
PASSED IT AN HOUR AGO! IT'S THE END OF THE LINE, MAC! GET OFF!

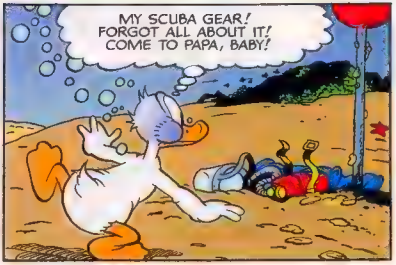

NO! I WANNA GO TO ATLANTIS!
THEN YOU SHOULDA STAYED AWAKE, MAC!

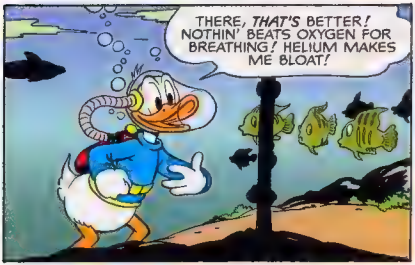

EXCUSE ME, BUT THIS BELONGS TO THE BUS COMPANY!

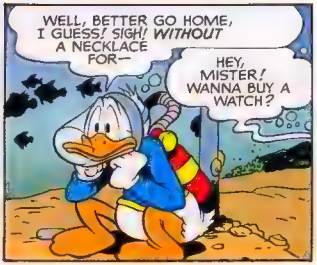

SO LONG, CHUMP! AND DON'T COME BACK!
OW!


IOOOOOM!


NEED OXYGEN... WEAK... DIZZY... UNABLE TO POLKA...

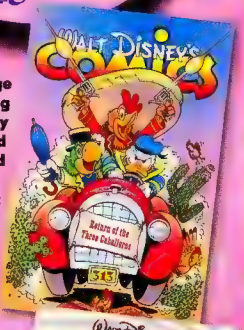

MY SCUBA GEAR! FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT! COME TO PAPA, BABY!


THERE, THAT'S BETTER! NOTHIN' BEATS OXYGEN FOR BREATHING! HELIUM MAKES ME BLOAT!


WELL, BETTER GO HOME, I GUESS! SIGH! WITHOUT A NECKLACE FOR—
HEY, MISTER! WANNA BUY A WATCH?

ACTUALLY, I WAS LOOKING FOR A NECKLACE!
NO PROBLEM! WE HAVE ONE IN OUR ROTATING STOCK!
SPIN-SPIN-SPIN!
WILL THIS DO? FIVE BUCKS AND IT'S YOURS!
PERFECT! I'LL TAKE IT!
YIPPEE! DAISY'S GONNA FAINT WHEN SHE SEES THIS BEAUTY!
AND SO—
OH, DONALD! IT'S LOVELY! IT'S EXQUISITE!
DAISY DUCK
CAN YOU GET ME A BRACELET AND EARRINGS TO MATCH?
WAK!
DONALD? DONALD! WAS IT SOMETHING I SAID?
The End

MORE Disney excitement TO COME!



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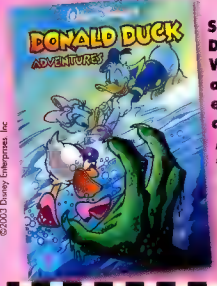

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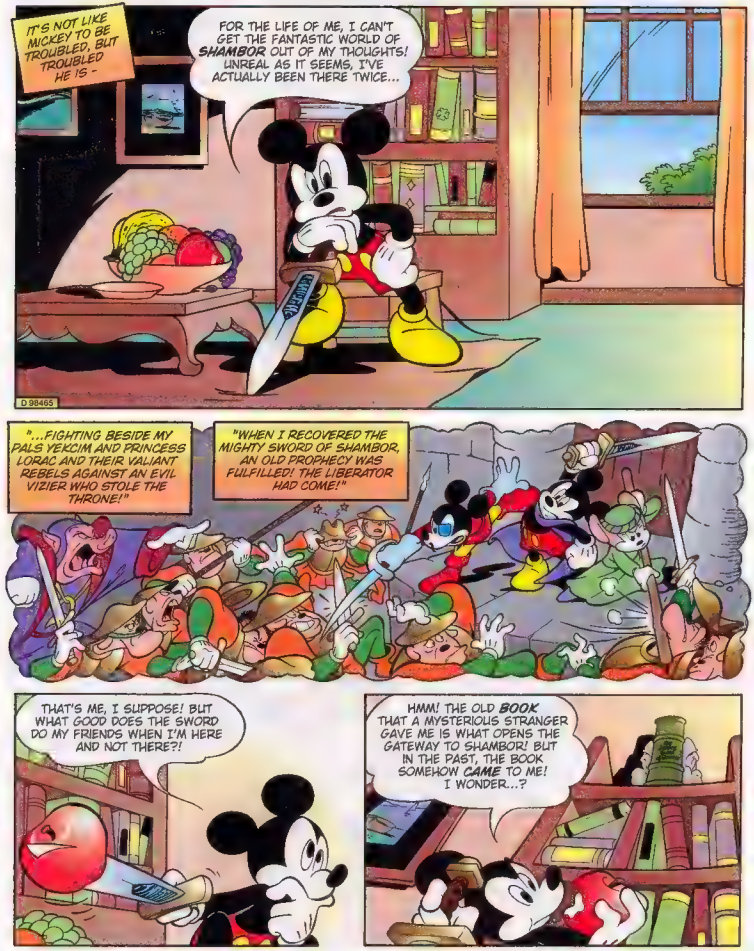
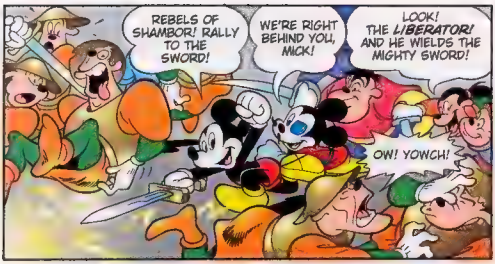
Walt Disney's MICKEY MOUSE

in "SHOWDOWN IN SHAMBOR" *Part 1 of 2*

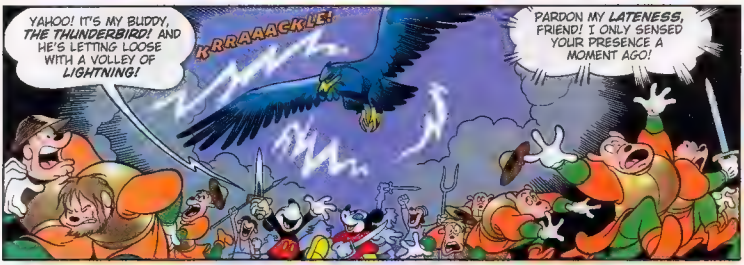

IT'S NOT LIKE MICKEY TO BE TROUBLED, BUT TROUBLED HE IS -
FOR THE LIFE OF ME, I CAN'T GET THE FANTASTIC WORLD OF SHAMBOR OUT OF MY THOUGHTS! UNREAL AS IT SEEMS, I'VE ACTUALLY BEEN THERE TWICE...
D 98465
"...FIGHTING BESIDE MY PALS YEKCIM AND PRINCESS LORAC AND THEIR VALIANT REBELS AGAINST AN EVIL VIZIER WHO STOLE THE THRONE!"
"WHEN I RECOVERED THE MIGHTY SWORD OF SHAMBOR, AN OLD PROPHECY WAS FULFILLED! THE LIBERATOR HAD COME!"
THAT'S ME, I SUPPOSE! BUT WHAT GOOD DOES THE SWORD DO MY FRIENDS WHEN I'M HERE AND NOT THERE?!
HMM! THE OLD BOOK THAT A MYSTERIOUS STRANGER GAVE ME IS WHAT OPENS THE GATEWAY TO SHAMBOR! BUT IN THE PAST, THE BOOK SOMEHOW CAME TO ME! I WONDER...?

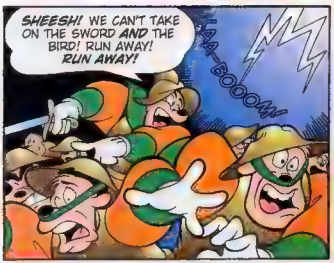
IF I OPEN THE BOOK, WILL IT STILL TRANSPORT ME TO THAT MYSTICAL LAND? WELL, ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT!
FUNNY! USUALLY I ONLY SEE BLANK PAGES! BUT THIS TIME THERE'S A CHAPTER HEADING! WHAT COULD IT MEAN?!
CHAPTER THREE
DESPITE LOW BETRAYAL, THE SWORD WILL PREVAIL
UH-OH! THIS IS FAMILIAR! I'M BEING TAKEN TO SHAMBOR! I GUESS THE BOOK WILL RESPOND ANYTIME I WANT IT TO!
HOLY CANNOLI! I KNOW EXACTLY WHERE I AM! THE REBELS' SECRET BASE ON SHAMBOR'S SURFACE! BUT THEY'RE UNDER ATTACK! LOOKS LIKE IT'S NOT SUCH A SECRET ANYMORE!
MICKEY!!

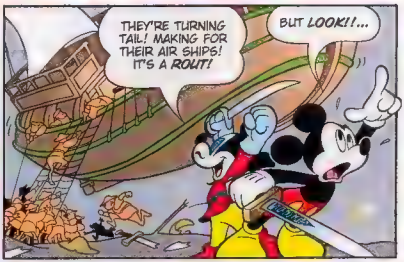
YEKCIM ESUOM!
MAN, AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU, MICKEY! WE NEED EVERY BIT OF HELP WE CAN GET! ISN'T THAT RIGHT, KNIFTAR?
YEP!
THE VIZIER'S TROOPS FLUSHED US OUT OF OUR UNDERGROUND HEADQUARTERS WITH A FOUL GAS!
OUR BACKS ARE AGAINST THE WALL!
BUT... BUT...
KLANK!
HOW DID THEY FIND THE BASE, ANYWAY?
BEATS ME!
WHONK!
WE KEPT THE LOCATION STRICTLY UNDER WRAPS! BUT HERE THEY ARE!
NOW THEY WANT TO CRUSH US AND FREE OUR PRISONER... THORNENCLAW THE WIZARD!
BRRR! I REMEMBER THAT CREEP! IF HE TEAMS UP WITH THE VIZIER AGAIN, OUR FAT WILL REALLY BE IN THE FIRE! WHERE IS HE NOW?!
KLUAK!
OVER YONDER! PROTECTED BY MY REBEL GUARDS! BUT NOT FOR LONG IF THIS KEEPS UP!
WHAT ABOUT THE PRINCESS?! AND HER POPP!
SHE'S HIDDEN WITH THE KING IN THE FOREST!
AT THIS RATE, IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE THESE GOONS LOCATE THEM!
TALK ABOUT TIGHT PINCHES! WELL, LET'S SEE IF I CAN PULL A RABBIT OUT OF THE OL' HAT! SWORD...DO YOUR STUFF!!
KNIFTAR
AHHHHOOOM!
YIPPIE! THAT'S THE TICKET!

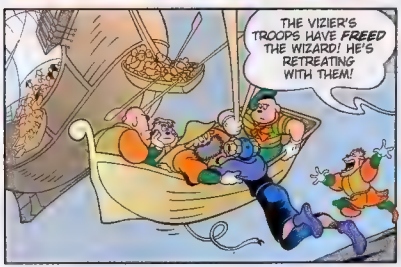

REBELS OF SHAMBOR! RALLY TO THE SWORD!
WE'RE RIGHT BEHIND YOU, MICK!
LOOK! THE LIBERATOR! AND HE WIELDS THE MIGHTY SWORD!
OW! YOWCH!

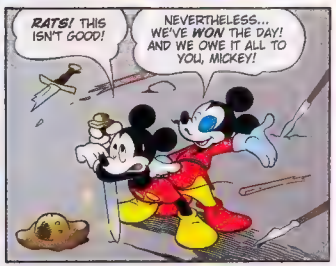
DON'T WORRY, MICKEY! I'M COMING!
HUH?! A VOICE...A TELEPATHIC VOICE... RIGHT IN MY HEAD!


YAHOO! IT'S MY BUDDY, THE THUNDERBIRD! AND HE'S LETTING LOOSE WITH A VOLLEY OF LIGHTNING!
KRRAAACKLE!
PARDON MY LATENESS, FRIEND! I ONLY SENSED YOUR PRESENCE A MOMENT AGO!


SHEESH! WE CAN'T TAKE ON THE SWORD AND THE BIRD! RUN AWAY! RUN AWAY!
KA-BOOM!

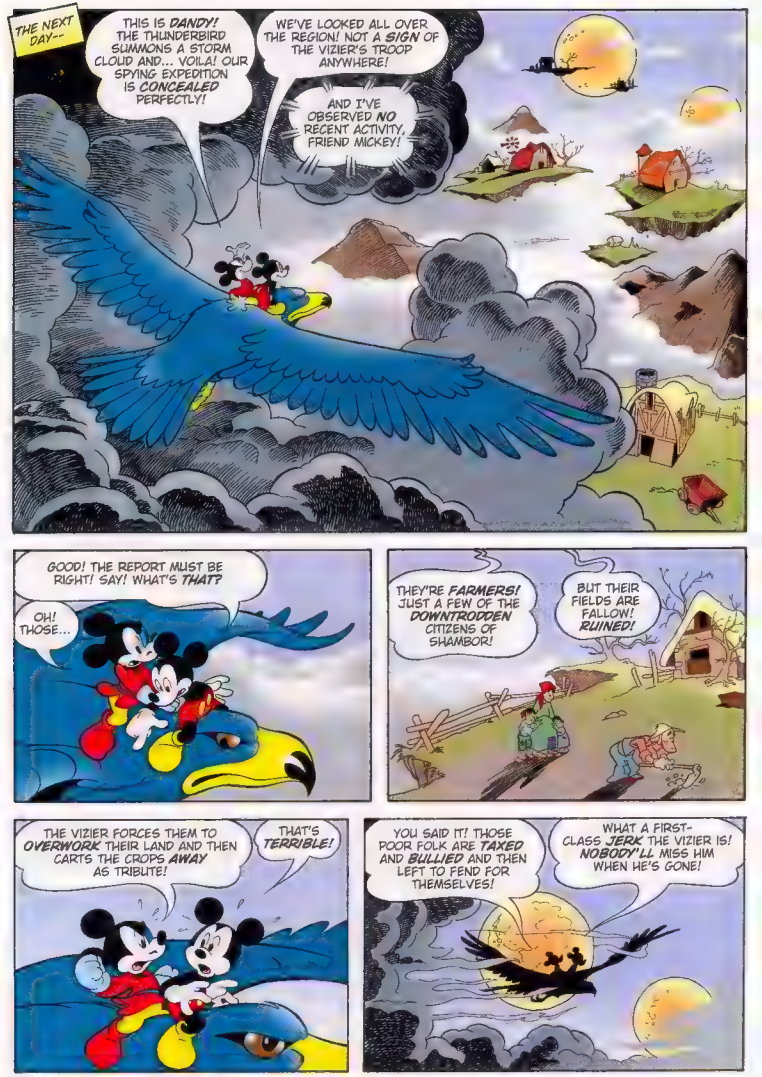

THEY'RE TURNING TAIL! MAKING FOR THEIR AIR SHIPS! IT'S A ROUT!
BUT LOOK!!...

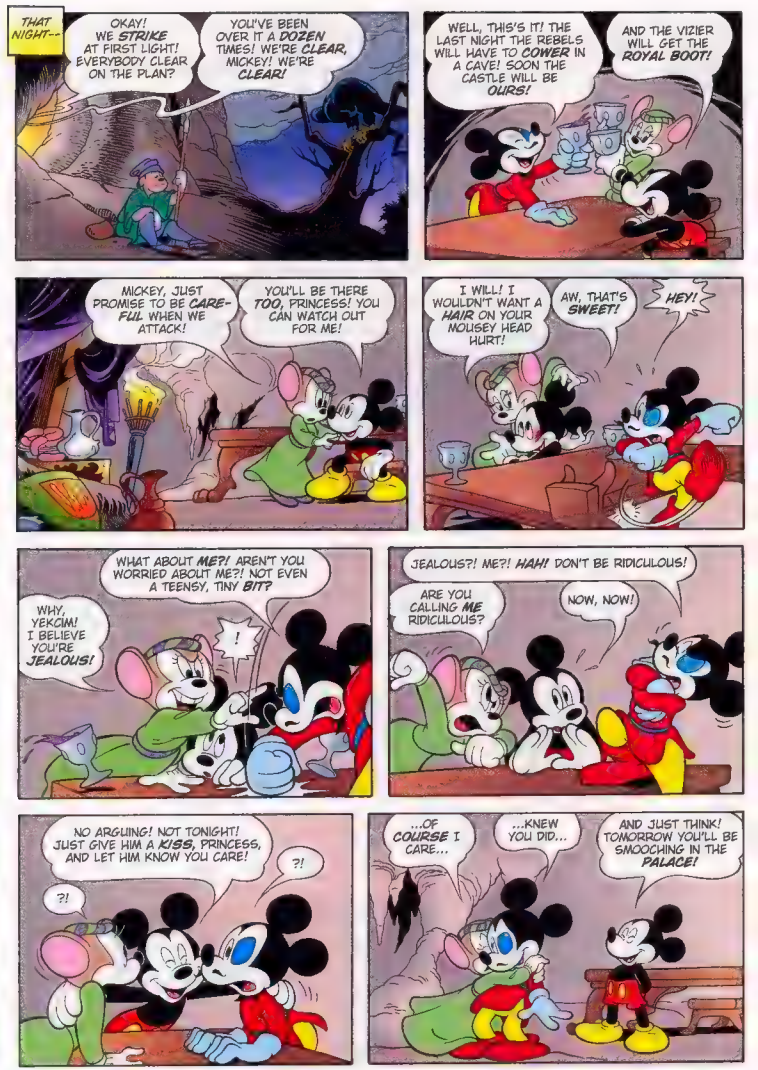

THE VIZIER'S TROOPS HAVE FREED THE WIZARD! HE'S RETREATING WITH THEM!


RATS! THIS ISN'T GOOD!
NEVERTHELESS... WE'VE WON THE DAY! AND WE OWE IT ALL TO YOU, MICKEY!

THE REBEL FREEDOM FIGHTERS, SAVED FROM CERTAIN DOOM, ARE ECSTATIC --
THREE CHEERS FOR MICKEY THE LIBERATOR! HIP! HIP! HOORAY!
SHUCKS, FELLAHS! ANYONE WITH A MAGIC SWORD COULDA DONE IT!
MICKEY! THANK GOODNESS YOU'VE RETURNED!
PRINCESS LORAC! YOU'RE A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES!
OH, MICKEY! I MISSED YOU SO MUCH! WELCOME BACK!
GOSH! THANKS, PRINCESS!
I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHERE YOU KEEP POPPING OFF TO, YOUNG MAN, BUT I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
IT'S A LONG STORY, YOUR MAJESTY! I'M HERE NOW TO HELP YOUR CAUSE!
WHATEVER YOU PLAN, FRIEND, I AM WITH YOU!
GOLLY! THAT'S SWELL, THUNDERBIRD!
HERE'S WHAT I THINK, FOLKS! WE PUT THOSE RASCALS ON THE RUN! MOMENTUM IS ON OUR SIDE! IT'S TIME TO MAKE A FULL-SCALE ASSAULT ON SHAMBOR CASTLE!
WE'LL DRIVE THAT LOUSY VIZIER OUT ONCE AND FOR ALL AND RESTORE THE RIGHTFUL KING OF SHAMBOR TO HIS THRONE!
HIP! HIP! HOOOORAY!!!

BUT FIRST, THE REBELS NEED ASSAULT TRAINING! KNIFTAR VOLUNTEERS FOR THE JOB --
ALL RIGHT! LOOK LIVELY, YOU GOBS! CLIMB THAT WALL! YOU MOVE LIKE A BUNCH'A NAMBY-PAMBYS! IT JUST AIN'T THAT TOUGH!
KNIFTAR, MY FINE FELLOW! WHY DON'T YOU SHOW THEM HOW IT'S DONE?
-:ULP!:- WHO?! ME?!
OKAY! -:HUFF!:- PIECE'A...-:PUFF!:-...CAKE! NOTHIN'...-:HUIRE!:-... TO IT!
THERE! WHATD I TELL YA?! EASY AS-- WHOOOP!
WHUFFF!
THUD! SPLAT!
BRAVO, KNIFTAR! WELL DONE!
BY THE WAY, CAPTAIN, I JUST RECEIVED THIS INTELLIGENCE REPORT!
HMMM! IT SAYS THE VIZIER'S TROOPS WILL BE AWAY FROM THE CASTLE TRYING TO CONQUER TERRITORY IN THE WEST OF SHAMBOR... FOR THE NEXT THREE NIGHTS!
WHAT A BREAK! THE CASTLE WILL BE MINIMALLY DEFENDED! IT'S TIME WE STRIKE!
STILL, MAYBE WE SHOULD TAKE A LITTLE RECONNAISSANCE JAUNT JUST TO MAKE SURE THE REPORT'S ON THE MONEY!
GOOD THINKING, MICKEY! BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY!


THE NEXT DAY--
THIS IS DANDY! THE THUNDERBIRD SUMMONS A STORM CLOUD AND... VOILA! OUR SPYING EXPEDITION IS CONCEALED PERFECTLY!
WE'VE LOOKED ALL OVER THE REGION! NOT A SIGN OF THE VIZIER'S TROOP ANYWHERE!
AND I'VE OBSERVED NO RECENT ACTIVITY, FRIEND MICKEY!
GOOD! THE REPORT MUST BE RIGHT! SAY! WHAT'S THAT?
OH! THOSE...
THEY'RE FARMERS! JUST A FEW OF THE DOWNTRODDEN CITIZENS OF SHAMBOR!
BUT THEIR FIELDS ARE FALLOW! RUINED!
THE VIZIER FORCES THEM TO OVERWORK THEIR LAND AND THEN CARTS THE CROPS AWAY AS TRIBUTE!
THAT'S TERRIBLE!
YOU SAID IT! THOSE POOR FOLK ARE TAXED AND BULLIED AND THEN LEFT TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES!
WHAT A FIRST-CLASS JERK THE VIZIER IS! NOBODY'LL MISS HIM WHEN HE'S GONE!


THAT NIGHT--
OKAY! WE STRIKE AT FIRST LIGHT! EVERYBODY CLEAR ON THE PLAN?
YOU'VE BEEN OVER IT A DOZEN TIMES! WE'RE CLEAR, MICKEY! WE'RE CLEAR!
WELL, THIS'S IT! THE LAST NIGHT THE REBELS WILL HAVE TO COWER IN A CAVE! SOON THE CASTLE WILL BE OURS!
AND THE VIZIER WILL GET THE ROYAL BOOT!
MICKEY, JUST PROMISE TO BE CARE-FUL WHEN WE ATTACK!
YOU'LL BE THERE TOO, PRINCESS! YOU CAN WATCH OUT FOR ME!
I WILL! I WOULDN'T WANT A HAIR ON YOUR MOUSEY HEAD HURT!
AW, THAT'S SWEET!
HEY!
WHAT ABOUT ME?! AREN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT ME?! NOT EVEN A TEENSY, TINY BIT?
WHY, YEKCIM! I BELIEVE YOU'RE JEALOUS!
!
JEALOUS?! ME?! HAH! DON'T BE RIDICULOUS!
ARE YOU CALLING ME RIDICULOUS?
NOW, NOW!
NO ARGUING! NOT TONIGHT! JUST GIVE HIM A KISS, PRINCESS, AND LET HIM KNOW YOU CARE!
?!
?!
...OF COURSE I CARE...
...KNEW YOU DID...
AND JUST THINK! TOMORROW YOU'LL BE SMOOCHING IN THE PALACE!

MICKEY DOESN'T KNOW HOW WRONG HE IS! AT THAT VERY MOMENT, AN AIR SKIFF SECRETLY SLIPS AWAY FROM THE REBEL BASE AND HEADS FOR THE VIZIER'S CASTLE--
GREAT GRAND VIZIER! A VISITOR TO SEE YOU!
SEND HIM IN!
I FREED YOU TO CREATE A MAGICAL TRAP FOR ME, THORNENCLAW MY WIZARD! NOW YOU SHALL SEE THAT I KNOW A FEW TRICKS TOO!
INDEED?
GREETINGS, EXALTED ONE! I COME BEARING FULL PLANS OF THE REBEL INVASION... WHERE, WHEN AND HOW!
AH! KNIFTAR, YOU UNCTUOUS, GREEDY TOAD! GIVE ME THOSE!
TAKE THIS POUCH OF GOLD AND WRIGGLE BACK TO THE REBEL BASE, WORM! LET NO ONE KNOW YOU CAME!
YES, YOUR ESTEEMED VIZIERNESS!
HEH HEH HEH! THOSE FOOLS THINK MY ARMY IS FAR AWAY, WHEN IN FACT IT'S RIGHT HERE AND PRIMED FOR BATTLE!
I'LL BE READY FOR THE UPSTARTS WHEN THEY ARRIVE! AND THIS DAY I SHALL CRUSH THE REBELLION ONCE AND FOR ALL!

BRIGHT AND EARLY--
IT'S NOW OR NEVER, MEN! LET'S GIVE IT OUR BEST SHOT!
THIS IS THE BERRIES! I RELISH THE THOUGHT OF CATCHING THE VIZIER WITH HIS PANTS DOWN!
UH... ME TOO!
IF HE CAN DISH IT OUT, HE'S GONNA HAVE TO TAKE IT!
THAR SHE IS! DEAD AHEAD! THE ROYAL PALACE!
HERE WE GO!
REBELS AND FREEDOM FIGHTERS! A NEW DAY DAWNS! RALLY TO THE FIGHTING SWORD OF SHAMBOR!

CONCLUDED NEXT ISSUE!

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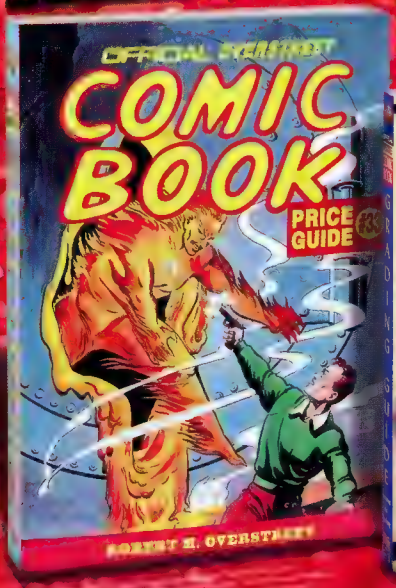

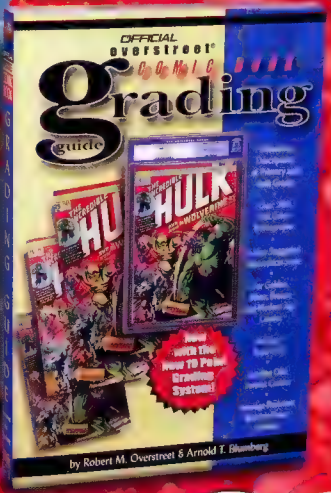

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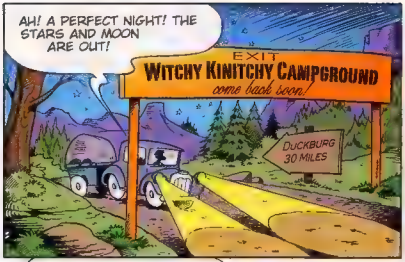
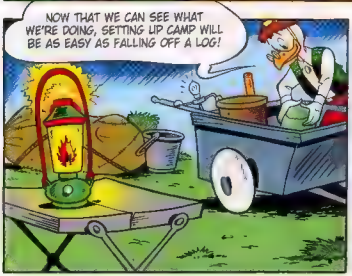
LISTED EACH MONTH IN PREVIEWS!

Walt Disney's
GYRO GEARLOOSE
ON VACATION
GOOD GRIEF! WITH THE AMOUNT OF WORK I'VE BEEN DOING LATELY, I FEEL WORN COMPLETELY OUT!
HAVE YOU MADE MY COMBO TV REMOTE CONTROL/BACK SCRATCHER YET? I ORDERED IT TWO HOURS AGO!
HERE IT IS, MA'AM! I RUSHED IT ESPECIALLY FOR YOU!
I SURE HOPE YOU DIDN'T RUSH SO MUCH YOU TURNED OUT A SLIPSHOD, INFERIOR PRODUCT!
ON THE OTHER HAND, IF IT WORKS AS WELL AS YOU CLAIM, I'LL BE BACK WITH ANOTHER ORDER!
MY SUCCESS AS AN INVENTOR WILL BE MY RUIN!
I REALLY NEED A NICE, RELAXING REST FROM ALL THIS ENDLESS WORK!

BUT FIRST I'LL WORK EVEN HARDER AND FASTER TO GET EVERYTHING DONE ACCORDING TO SCHEDULE!
THANKS, GYRO! NOW I CAN FLY TO SCHOOL!
ONCE I'VE FULFILLED ALL PENDING OBLIGATIONS...
...I CAN HEAD FOR THE HILLS!
THANKS, GYRO! NOW I WON'T GET TANGLED IN THE LEASHES!
THIS TINY DROP OF CONCENTRATED FUEL SHOULD LAST FOR WEEKS! THIS NEW FORMULA IS MORE EFFICIENT THAN EVER!
SWELL!
BYE-BYE, GYRO!
THANK GOODNESS! THAT WAS THE LAST OF 'EM!
AND NOT A MOMENT TOO SOON!
On Vacation
LATER—
ISN'T THIS GRAND, HELPER? WE'RE FINALLY OFF ON OUR WELL-DESERVED CAMPING TRIP!

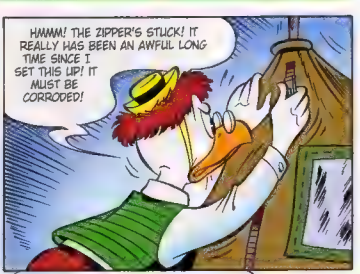

AH! A PERFECT NIGHT! THE STARS AND MOON ARE OUT!
EXIT
WITCHY KINITCHY CAMPGROUND
come back soon!
DUCKBURG 30 MILES

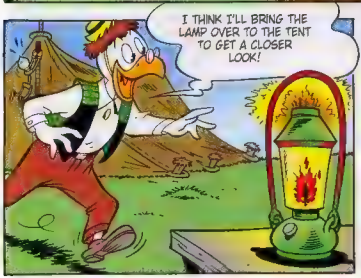
BUT I STILL THINK WE NEED SOME EXTRA LIGHT!


NOW THAT WE CAN SEE WHAT WE'RE DOING, SETTING UP CAMP WILL BE AS EASY AS FALLING OFF A LOG!

I'M ALREADY FEELING RELAXED OUT HERE, FAR AWAY FROM THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE OF MY WORKSHOP! LIFE IS GRAND!

NOW I'LL JUST AIR OUT THIS OLD TENT THAT'LL GET RID OF ANY MUSTINESS IT'S PICKED UP SINCE I LAST USED IT!


HMMM! THE ZIPPER'S STUCK! IT REALLY HAS BEEN AN AWFUL LONG TIME SINCE I SET THIS UP! IT MUST BE CORRODED!


I THINK I'LL BRING THE LAMP OVER TO THE TENT TO GET A CLOSER LOOK!

YOOOOWW! THIS PESKY HANDLE IS HOT!

SURE ENOUGH! THIS ZIPPER HASN'T BEEN USED IN SUCH A LONG TIME THAT IT'S RUSTED IN PLACE!
IF ONLY I HAD MY BATCH OF CHEMICALS FROM THE WORKSHOP, I'D WHIP UP A FAST-ACTING SOLVENT THAT WOULD UNSTICK THAT ZIPPER IN NO TIME!
OH, WELL! =SIGH!= NO MATTER! I'LL GO BACK INTO TOWN TOMORROW AND MAKE SOME!
FOR NOW, I GUESS WE'LL JUST HAVE TO BE CONTENT TO SLEEP IN THE OPEN — OUT UNDER THE STARS!
LOOK AT THAT LIGHTNING BUG! WHAT AN AMAZING CREATURE A FIREFLY IS!
IF I COULD IMITATE THE COLD LIGHT THAT COMES FROM A FIREFLY...=YAWN=...I COULD PREVENT MY HAND FROM BEING BURNED IN THE FUTURE!
PERHAPS...=YAWN=...I COULD INVESTIGATE THE REQUIREMENTS OF COLD FUSION IN MINIATURE... ZZZZZZZZ...

EARLY THE NEXT MORNING —
BRRRRRRR! I-I-IT'S SO C-C-COLD! I-I NEED TO G-G-GET ONE OF THESE MATCHES TO L-L-LIGHT!
DRAT! NOW ALL THE MATCHES ARE USED UP, AND I STILL HAVEN'T GOT MY FIRE LIT!
THIS WOULD NEVER HAPPEN IF I WAS BACK HOME WITH ALL OF MY INVENTING SUPPLIES!
NOW I'M FORCED TO IMPROVISE! I'LL JUST CONNECT THESE CABLES TO MY CAR BATTERY!
LUCKILY I BROUGHT SOME OF MY SUPER-DUPER, CONCENTRATED JET FUEL ALONG! HEH, HEH!
THAT'S DONE! NOW THIS FIRE WILL BE LIT BEFORE YOU CAN SAY...
BZZZZZZZTTT
KA-BOOOOOOOM!

THAT DOES IT! I'M GOING BACK TO MY WORKSHOP TO GET THE STUFF I NEED FOR THIS VACATION!
IN FACT, I'M GONNA QUICKLY WHIP UP ALL THE NECESSARY, USER-FRIENDLY, CAMPING GEAR ANYONE COULD EVER NEED!
SO AFTER HE'S "WHIPPED UP" SOME GEAR...
THIS ULTRA MODERN, SUPER RESILIENT, AUTOMATIC, HYDRAULIC, LIGHTWEIGHT TENT IS JUST PERFECT!
AND THIS COLD FUSION, FLUORESCENT LAMP IS GUARANTEED TO NEVER BURN ME!
WHAT ABOUT THIS FANTASTIC HEAT- AND COLD-RESISTANT, LIGHT-WEIGHT SUIT?!
NOT TO MENTION MY TOTALLY WATERPROOF CAMPFIRE AND TV SET COMBO!
Fan Heater
AHH! THIS IS THE LIFE! THERE'S NOTHING LIKE CAMPING TO GET AWAY FROM IT ALL!
Gyro Gearloose— Inventions while you wait!
ON VACATION

"I've got an awful memory of going through this bit before!" — Mickey Mouse, returning to Shambor in (...what else?) "Return to Shambor," from *Donald Duck and Friends* 311.

Yes, Mickey, you *have* gone through this before...two months prior, as time passes for us readers. And, unlike you, Mr. Mouse, I'm quite pleased to get back on this particular thrill ride. Despite contributions in a "ducky-vein" by long-time favorites Vicar, Freddy Milton, and Daniel Branca, it is your headlong thrust into the amazing realm of Shambor that steals the book from your foul-tempered, feathered friend.

So, Mick...please second editor-in-chief John Clark's suggestion to collect the various Shambor tales into one grand graphic novel. And, hopefully, when I open it, only my *imagination* (...and not my physical being) will be transported to this wonderful world. (Just in case those flying sail ships make me sea/air sick.)

Regards to Minnie, Goofy, Horace, the Princess of Shambor, and especially Donald for providing the page space for this wonderful series in the pages of his magazine!

See ya real soon...

—Joe Torcivia
via email

As an old Gladstone (comics, not Gander) fan, I am very glad indeed to see the new Gemstone line of comics. While the $6.95 books are often over my budget, I am a constant reader of the *...and Friends* line. What prompts this particular letter — aside from the overdue thanks! — is your request for feedback on the Mickey Mouse in Shambor stories.

I am as much a Mickey fan as I am a duck fan, (even though I usually find much more enjoyment in Uncle Scrooge stories than in Mouse stories), and I very much enjoy the McGreals' Mouse in Shambor tales. And yes, I vote for these to be collected. It'd be one volume I'd pay the higher price for — even having, as I do, the separate chapters in comic book form. Cesar Ferioli's and Scott Rockwell's artwork is perfectly matched to the stories, and the blend of word-and-picture art makes these a wonderfully entertaining comics read.

Thank you for returning Donald and Mickey and Scrooge and "Friends" to the U.S. comics scene. I wish you every success throughout the new — 2004 — year!

—Matt Levin
via email

After reading the stories so far of the land of Shambor, I think it should continue after the three stories that are planned for *Donald Duck and Friends* issues. As the Shambor book that Mickey gets, and is a key to this world, still has many pages, there are more stories to be told.

And the idea of collecting all the stories into one graphic novel is also a good idea. It would bring in new readers and maybe could also have extra features, such as a map or sketches of the characters and ships. I for one will be interested to see how Mickey and friends get on in Shambor and what adventures and troubles may come.

—Andrew J. Lee
via email

"Showdown in Shambor," which begins in this issue, is Pat and Carol McGreal's third Shambor epic. While it's the last of what they've written so far in this series, it's not the last adventure. When more episodes are available, we'll publish them. Then one day we'll see about that collection....

And now for the democratic response to the Mickey Shambor tales:

Regarding *Donald Duck and Friends* 311: In the 1950s, *Mad Magazine* cartoonist Wallace Wood drew elaborate fantasy stories and used words like "cockamamie" and "furshlugginer." Now, in the 2000s, Ferioli and the McGreals do likewise for Mickey Mouse, but I consider it inappropriate for Mickey. Walt Disney considered the mouse to represent Everyman and tried to keep Mickey's situations and storylines believable. I can't imagine Floyd Gottfredson or Paul Murry crafting a tale that includes a magical book, a mystical sword, and a flying ship. And everybody knows that Mickey would say "Oh, gosh!" and not "furshlugginer." Please keep Mickey down to earth, both figuratively and literally. From a Disney comics reader since age 4 — 50 years ago.

—Steve Thompson
via email

Your points are well-taken, Steve, but methinks you're using a little bit of selective memory in your recollections of a "down-to-earth" Mickey. I seem to recall quite a few Gottfredson stories that bordered on the fantastic — such as "The Miracle Master" and "The 'Lectro Box." We are making a push to try to bring in a younger readership by "modernizing" the Mickey tales, and these stories have so far been well-received. Further comments?
—John Clark

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